

Gilman Library
Report to the Trustees 2005
January 2006

This has been a very special year for the Gilman Library due to the fact that we began the process of installing the library elevator and expect it to be completed and operational in the year 2006. Through the efforts of our very generous community, we have been able to acquire the necessary funds from Capital Improvement Funds set aside over the last three years as well as donations to the Gilman Library Building Fund. Special thanks go to everyone who has supported this effort throughout the years. We truly appreciate your support in helping us to provide the best possible service to the community.

Many thanks to all of you who have displayed your “special collection” in our library either in the form of an artistic collection to decorate our walls or a collection placed under glass in our display case located near the circulation desk. New ideas are always welcome. We will continue to display any special collections that you may be willing to share with the community in the year 2006.

Here at the Gilman Library we are still talking about books. The book discussion group (Alton’s Book Chat) meets on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 PM to discuss a book of their choice. Meetings are usually held in the Agnes Thompson Meeting Room at the Gilman Library. New members are always welcome.

If you feel as though you need to put that book down for a while you can always pick up knitting. You can join the “Knitting Circle” here at the library. Beginners and experienced knitters come together to share ideas and just enjoy one another’s company. The Knitters have provided some wonderful ideas for new books that have been added to the library collection. New members are always welcome.

The Gilman Library is “more than just books”. Do you enjoy the challenge of a good puzzle? If so, come and check out our collection of puzzles and take part in our “puzzle swap”. Take a puzzle for an unlimited amount of time. If you take a puzzle you can swap it with one of your own or bring it back when you are finished. We welcome donations of puzzles that are in good condition. If keeping a puzzle going at home just doesn’t work for you, be sure to stop by the library and try your hand at building the puzzle that is in progress here at the library. Together, we can build great things!!

Did you forget your library card? We have also added a “paperback book swap” that works the same way the puzzle swap works so you may never be without a book. In addition, if you are going away on vacation and hesitate to check out a library book for fear that it may be lost or overdue you may take a book from the specially marked book swap shelves without worrying about bringing the book back on time. In fact, you can leave it at your vacation spot and have more room in your luggage for souvenirs.

Gift Certificates are still available and may be used to purchase a library card for family or friends who are not residents of Alton. You may use gift certificates to purchase brass

bookmarks, Bicentennial Posters, Alton Afghans, Alton Village Collectibles, Commemorative Bricks and t-shirts are still available for purchase and it is not too late to "Adopt a Plant, Tree, or Shrub".

Story hour for children ages 3-5 is held on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 to 1:45 PM. Those who attend enjoy stories, songs and crafts. We commend our Assistant Librarian, Cindy Miller, and our "story hour moms" Cheryl Ann Curtin, Monique DeRoche, Christine Ellis, Sarah Harris, Charlene Peloquin, Gwen Zinck, Karen Petelle, Sally Francis, Kristy Parzaile, Barbara Whiting, Alicia Foss and Beth Racine for all they have done to help instill a love and appreciation for books, reading and learning in our little people. We wish to thank our "Story Hour Moms" for making story hour a great success.

The Friends of the Gilman Library continue to be a tremendous asset to the library. As in the past, they have continued their efforts to "make the Gilman Library the best it can be" by donating time and refreshments to various meetings, programs and events throughout the year. The following committees worked to benefit the library:

1. Decorating Comm. - To decorate the library during the holiday season.
2. Fund Raising Ideas Comm. - money was generated through the sale of T-shirts and canvas book bags, a car wash and a book, bag and bake sale.
3. Refreshment Comm. - to contact various members for donations of baked goods to support library programs and the annual bake sale.

Officers of the Friends of the Gilman Library include Co-Chairmen - Mary Bee Longabaugh and Barbara Ingoldsby, Treasurer - Shirley Bishop, Secretary - Dot Folsom and Corresponding Secretary - Pat Merrill. We extend our sincere thanks to all members of the Friends of the Gilman Library for another wonderful year.

SPECIAL EVENTS

In honor of Valentine's Day, the Gilman Library "celebrated our love of books" from February 12th – 19th, 2005. We celebrated in two ways. First, by holding a special book sale. Second, by accepting all overdue books free of late fees. This sale was a great success. Special thanks to all who took part in this event.

The Gilman Library participated in the Town-Wide Yard sale on Saturday, June 4, 2005 by holding a "Book It, Bag It and Bake It" sale. Friends of the Gilman Library Canvas Book bags could be purchased for five dollars and filled with books free of charge or a plastic bag could be filled for one dollar. Delicious baked goods, donated by members of the Friends of the Gilman Library and many others, were also available for a nominal fee.

This year's summer reading program entitled "Camp Wanna Read" was a great success. There were 75 children enrolled in the program and approximately 700 books read. Summer Readers enjoyed reading books, magazines and newspapers. Many more

children took part in the program through answering weekly trivia questions, participating in guessing games, completing word search and crossword puzzles, and entering the coloring contest and more. Participants, friends and family members celebrated summer reading with singer Sammie Haynes. We look forward to another wonderful program next year!!

The Friends of the Gilman Library held their 5th Annual Car Wash on Saturday, July 16, 2005 from 8 AM to 12 PM. Special thanks go to members of The Friends of the Gilman Library who worked so hard to make this happen and to those members of the community who took part through allowing us to give their car a bath. We are forever grateful to our friends and our community for supporting us and for helping to “make the Gilman Library the best it can be”.

Once again, the Friends of the Gilman Library demonstrated their expertise and dedication to our library through hosting our 6th Annual Holiday Tea, which was held on Tuesday, December 06, 2005. Friends, patrons and library staff enjoyed refreshments and holiday music presented by students of the Prospect Mountain High School and the Alton Central School. Our most sincere thanks go to everyone who took part in the Holiday Tea through decorating the library for the holidays, preparing for the tea, delivering refreshments, providing entertainment or for attending.

PASSES

Currier Museum of Art – 4 Passes- each pass is good for up to 4 adults (children free) Yearly membership valid from 06/01/2005 to 06/01/2006. Library passes may be checked out for two days.

M/S Mount Washington – 4 passes –each is good for one person. Passes were available for May –June 2005 and September – October 2005. These passes will be available in 2006. All users must have a Library Card.

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

The Gilman Library received a grant through the New Hampshire Humanities Council for the year 2005. As a result, the following program was made possible;

“Inside Russia Today” presented by Marina Forbes, Director of International Programs for the New England Language Center, Rochester, N.H...
(Refreshments provided by the Friends of the Gilman Library)

Other programs that were held at the Gilman Library include;

“A Knitter’s Life” presented by members of the Alton Knitter’s Circle.
(Sponsored by the Friends of the Gilman Library)

“Lakes Region Chordsmen Barbershop Chorus” Chapter of the SPEBSQSA, Inc.
(Sponsored by the Oliver J. M. Lyceum Fund with refreshments provided by the Friends of the Gilman Library)

“The Role of Museums in Communities” presented by Florence Davis of the Gilman Museum, Alton, NH
(Sponsored by the Friends of the Gilman Library)

“Women in War” presented by Cory Culvert, Author of Echoes of Armageddon, 1914-1918: An American’s Search Into The Lives And Deaths of Eight British Soldiers In World War One.
(Sponsored by the Oliver J.M. Gilman Lyceum Fund. with refreshments provided by the Friends of the Gilman Library and the Alton Historical Society)

“Natures ABC’s” presented by Sammie Haynes
(Sponsored by the Gilman Library - Refreshments provided by the Friends of the Gilman Library)

“Among The Bears” presented by Benjamin Kilham.
(Sponsored by the Oliver J.M. Gilman Lyceum Fund with refreshments provided by the Friends of the Gilman Library)

“Water Guardians” Presented by Life Wise Community Projects.

Family Movie Nights – Featuring -“It Takes Two” and “Ernest Goes to Camp”

GENERAL INFORMATION

Volunteerism plays a large part of what makes our wonderful library run smoothly. Without the exceptional efforts of our volunteer staff managing the library would not be possible. Regular volunteers include Shirley Copeland (Trustee), David Birdsey, (Trustee), Nancy Jordan (Trustee).

Bryan Bishop, Terry Gilmore, Dot Folsom, Pat Merrill, Lindsey Bishop, Daryl Czech, Sandy Glazer, Kim Dain, Paddy Roy, Jill DeCubellis, Stacey Morin and Peg Kayser, Other volunteers who were on hand to help with special events or projects were Shirley Bishop, Barbara Ingoldsby, Lydia Morton, Gene Rogers, Marie Stackhouse and Mary Bee Longabaugh. Regular and temporary volunteers have worked approximately 1,104 hours in the year 2005. This includes hours worked by “story hour moms” mentioned earlier in this report. It does not include volunteer hours worked by the Gilman Library Trustees.

Various organizations, clubs and individuals throughout the year used the Agnes Thompson Meeting Room. Users include the Alton Garden Club, the Alton Historical Society, the Friends of the Gilman Library, the PTSA, the Book Discussion Group, the

United Association, the Quilter's Club, the Knitting Circle, Alton Book Chat, etc. The total number of meetings and programs held in the library in 2005 was 193. At least 1,326 persons were in attendance during these meetings and programs.

In addition to regular duties associated with the library, the Assistant Librarian attended 3 Friends of the Gilman Library meetings. The Librarian attended 4 RALI meetings, 6 Friends of the Gilman Library meetings, 1 NHLA meetings, and 3 meetings pertaining to the budget for the Gilman Library. The Librarian is the Secretary for the Gilman Library Trustees and Co - Chairman for the Rochester Area Library Cooperative.

The purpose of the Gilman Library is to enrich the quality of life through nurturing the joy of reading and lifelong learning by addressing the informational, educational and recreational needs of the community.

Through the year 2006 we will continue to "make the Gilman Library the best it can be" and will remain eternally grateful for the support of our community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly Brown
Library Director

GILMAN LIBRARY
GENERAL STATISTICS
2005

Circulation – 34,591

Library Card Holders – 2,444

Library Collection – 18,390